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BY J. L. PENNINGTON & CO.

THE NATION'S GRIEF.

THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN CONFIRMED.

GREAT MOURNING THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

We received, Saturday, a copy of the *New York Herald* of the 17th, which has long details of the assassination of Mr Lincoln, from which we condense the following

OFFICIAL DISPATCHES.

War Department, Washington,
April 15—4:10 A. M.

To Major-General Dix:—

The President continues insensible, and is sinking.

Sec. Seward remains without change.

Frederick Seward's skull is fractured in two places, besides a severe cut upon the head.

The attendant is still alive, but hopeless. Major Seward's wound is not dangerous.

It is now ascertained with reasonable certainty that two assassins were engaged in the horrible crime, Wilkes Booth being the one that shot the President, and the other, a companion of his, whose name is not known, but whose description is so clear that he can hardly escape. It appears from a letter found in Booth's trunk, that the murder was planned before the 4th of March, but fell through then because the accomplice backed out until "Richmond could be heard from." Booth and his accomplice were at the livery stable at six o'clock last evening, and left there with their horses about ten o'clock, or shortly before that hour.

It would seem that they had for several days been seeking their chance, but for some unknown reason it was not carried into effect until last night.

One of them has evidently made his way to Baltimore; the other has not yet been traced.

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

War Department,
Washington, April 15.

Major-General Dix:—

Abraham Lincoln died this morning at twenty-two minutes after seven o'clock.

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

PRIVATE TELEGRAMS FROM MR. CLARENCE A. SEWARD.

Washington, April 16, 1865.

Colonel E. S. Sanford:—

Uncle is as well this morning as the circumstances will permit. He retains his mental vigor and resolution. The surgeon speaks very favorably.

Poor Fred. is still utterly unconscious. He has not opened his eyes since twelve o'clock Friday night.

The Major (Augustus Seward) will get along nicely.

C. A. SEWARD.

SECOND DISPATCH.

Washington, April 16—12 M.

The Surgeon General has just returned from the Secretary of State, and reports that Mr. Seward has not been so well at any time since he was thrown out of the carriage as he is to-day.

It is thought that Frederick Seward is somewhat better, although surgeons are unwilling to promise any hope of final recovery. He has been so far restored to consciousness as to recognize those about him; but it is not desirable to restore consciousness entirely with too much rapidity, for fear of producing congestion.

[Another despatch from Mr. Clarence Seward, received in this city yesterday afternoon, stated that the condition of Secretary Seward had improved since morning, and hopes were entertained of his recovery.—Ed. Herald.]

The Acting Secretary of State has issued the following address:

Department of State,
Washington, April 17, 1865.

To the people of the United States:

The undersigned is directed to announce that the funeral ceremonies of the lamented Chief Magistrate will take place at the Executive Mansion in this city at twelve o'clock, noon, on Wednesday, the 19th instant. The various religious denominations throughout the country are invited to meet in their respective places of worship at that hour for the purpose of solemnizing the occasion with appropriate ceremonies.

W. HUNTER,
Act. Sec. of State.

Mr. Lincoln was assassinated on the night of the 14th.

MAJOR RATHBUN'S STATEMENT.

The President's box at Ford's theatre is a double one, or what ordinarily constitutes two boxes, in the second tier, at the left of the stage. When occupied by the Presidential party, the separating partition is removed, and the two are thus thrown into one. This box is entered from a narrow, dark hall-way, which in turn is separated from the dress-circle by a small door. The examination of the premises discloses the fact that the assassin had fully and deliberately prepared and arranged them for his diabolical purpose previous to the assembling of the audience. A piece of board one inch thick, six inches wide, and about three feet in length, served for a bar, one end being placed in an indentation excavated in the wall for the purpose about four feet from the floor, and the other against the molding of the door panel a few inches higher than the end in the wall, so that it would be impossible to jar it out of place by knocking on the door on the outside. The demon having thus guarded against intrusion by any of the audience, next proceeded to prepare a means of observing the position of the parties inside he box. With a gimlet or small bit he bored a hole in the door panel, which he afterwards reamed out with his knife so as to leave it little larger than a buckshot on the inside, while it was sufficiently large on the outside in the dark entry for him to place his eye against it with convenience, and see the position occupied by the President and his friends. Both box doors were perforated in like manner. But there were spring locks on each of these doors, and it was barely possible that they might be fastened. To provide against such an emergency, the screws which fasten the bolt hasps to the wood had been partially withdrawn, and left so that while they would hold the hasps to the wood they would afford little or no resistance to a firm pressure upon the door from the outside.

DELIBERATE PREPARATIONS FOR THE MURDER.

Having thus provided for a sure and easy entrance to the box, the next business was to insure a clear and unobstructed passage to the locality of the victim by such an arrangement of the chairs and sofas as would place the other occupants at considerable distance from him. The rocking or easy chair occupied by Mr. Lincoln was found in the front corner of the box farthest from the stage. Another, for Mrs Lincoln, a little more remote from the front, while the other chairs and the sofa were all placed on the side nearest the stage leaving the centre of the spacious box clear for the bloody operations of the actor.—These preparations were neither conceived by a maddened brain, designed by a fool, nor executed by a drunkard. They bear most unmistakable evidence of genius, industry and perseverance in the perfect accomplishment of a deliberate murder.

At a few minutes past eight in the evening the President and Mrs. Lincoln called at the residence of Senator Harris corner of 15th and H streets, where they took Miss Clara Harris and Major Henry R. Rathbun, United States Army, into the carriage, and proceeded to the theatre.—Shortly after they entered the fatal box the President seated himself in the chair designed for him by the assassin. Mrs. Lincoln took one near him, Miss Harris the one at the opposite corner, fronting the audience, and Major Rathbun seated himself upon the sofa, a few feet behind Miss Harris. There were no other persons in the box, and no one entered or left it until about the time of the assassination. Charles Forbes, the personal attendant of the President, had been told by Mrs. Lincoln to remain near the box, as he might be wanted. The President, seemed well, though somewhat sad, and spoke very little. He arose once during the performance, went to the door of the box, put on his overcoat and then returned to his chair and sat down.

The deed was perpetrated during the second scene of the third act of the piece, by some man who must have approached stealthily and unseen through the dark passage at the back of the box. Major Rathbun was not aware of his presence till hearing the report of a pistol, and, looking round, saw the flash, and dimly through the smoke the form of a man in the box, not more than six feet from the President. As the Major sprang towards him he heard him shriek some word like "freedom." He then seized him.—The assassin shook loose from the officer's grasp, and at the same time made a violent thrust at his left breast with the knife which he held in his hand. Major Rathbun caught the blow on his left arm near the shoulder, and at once sprang for him again, but only succeeded in grasping his clothing, which he partly tore from him as he leaped from the box to the stage. The Major then cried out "Stop that man," and, supposing it impossible for him to escape through the crowd below, rushed back to the President and to the aid of Mrs. Lincoln, who, for the first time realizing what had occurred, was shrieking for help. The President had not changed his position, except that his eyes were closed and his head slightly bent forward. Major Rathbun saw at a glance that he was mortally wounded. He went to the door of the box for the purpose of procuring medical aid, and to his astonishment found the outer door at the end of the dark hall from which the boxes are entered firmly barred on the inside with a piece of wood wedged across about four feet from the floor; so that those outside who were knocking for admission could not get in. Tearing away the fastenings and passing in one or two persons who represented themselves as surgeons, he requested Captain Crawford to prevent all other persons from entering the box, and begged the audience to disperse.

When the surgeons had concluded their examinations it was decided to remove the body from the theatre, and accordingly the whole party, including Major Rathbun, who had charge of Mrs. Lincoln, proceeded to a house opposite. It was now found that the Major was seriously wounded, and becoming quite faint from loss of blood. He was sent home by his surgeon.

THE RAPIDITY OF THE ASSASSIN'S MOVEMENTS.

The whole time occupied from the firing of the pistol in the box to the leaping upon the stage was not over thirty seconds. The President never spoke or unclosed his eyes from this time until his death. The clothing of Major Rathbun and the dress of Miss Harris were bespattered with blood from the wound of the Major. The wound of the President did not bleed at all

MISS LAURA KEENE'S STATEMENT.

Prominent among those mentioned in connection with the incidents of the late tragic death of our worthy President is the name of Miss Laura Keene, the actress. In order to place her right in the history the following facts will suffice:—

Miss Keene was behind the scenes at the precise time of the shooting, waiting to come on the stage. She was near the place theatrically known as the *tormentor*. She was on the northern side of the theatre, while the President's box was on the southern side. Miss Keene's position was near the prompter's desk; but as that official was absent calling some of the actors she placed herself near the point where she could more readily enter upon her part. She was at the time expecting to see the ingress of Mr. Spear, whose part was at hand, and prepared herself to break his fall as he entered in a drunken scene; but instead of receiving Mr. Spear Mr. Booth pushed his way suddenly through the side scene, striking Miss Kene on the hand with his own, in which he held the dagger. She for a second looked at him and saw it was another person from the one she expected, and instantaneously she heard the cry that the President was shot. The cry was spontaneous among the audience, and many of them were making for the stage. She then knew something was occurring, as women were screaming, men hallooing and children crying, as if a fire panic had taken place. Miss Kene went to the front of the stage, and, addressing the bewildered audience, said, "For God's sake have presence of mind and keep your places, and all will be well." Notwithstanding this appeal, the audience were boisterous, and while all seemed willing to detect the perpetrator of the great crime, but one made a move to this end. Scarcely had the perpetrator of the crime jumped from the President's box to the stage, than he was followed by Mr. Stewart, one of the auditors. As Mr. Booth crossed the stage he met and struck at the carpenter with the dagger he held; and instantaneously made his exit to the rear of the theatre, where his horse was in readiness, and thence made his escape. Miss Kene, after momentarily arresting the panic and consternation in the audience, heard the cry of Miss Harris, saying, "Miss Kene bring some water." Miss Kene, responding to the call, made her way, which was rather circuitous, through the dress circle to the President's box, and got there a few moments after the occurrence. There she saw Mrs. Lincoln, in the agony of a devoted wife, uttering the most piteous cries. Miss Kene attempted to pacify her, at the same time offering the good offices in her power; but she was convinced from her observation that human help was in vain. Miss Kene remained with the President until he was taken from the theatre.

STATEMENT OF A CITY JUDGE.

One of the judges of the courts in the city was in attendance at Ford's theatre on the night of the tragedy, and occupied a seat about ten feet back from the box which the Presidential party occupied. During the representation of the third act he saw a man leaning against the wall, a few steps back from the private box whose manner attracted his attention. His first impressions were that he was drunk, but, eyeing him more closely, the strange person gave the judge a piercing look. His glaring eyes, pale face and nervous action led the judge to believe that the man was crazy, and he called the attention of the gentleman sitting next tohim to the strange action. Just then there was a demonstration of applause in the theatre over some scene on the stage, which attracted his attention. A moment—and but a moment—he turned again to veiw the stranger and he was just passing through the door in to President's, box. But a moment more the deed was done, and the strange person disappeard on the stge.

Ford's theatre was visited to-day by Judge Olin, in company with Senator Harris and his daughter, when a careful examination of the President's box was made.

Washington, April 15 1865.

THE ASSASSINS AND THEIR ACCOMPLICES

Two theories are pursued in regard to the escape of the assassins of Mr. Lincoln and the Sewards. One is that they have really gone from the city; the other that they are still concealed here. There is now no doubt that more than two were connected with the tragic occurrence. Information has been obtained showing that six or more were engaged in it. The authorities believe from their investigations, that there were a number of aiders and abetters besides the principal actors, it is now definitely ascertained that John Wilkes Booth is the murderer of President Lincoln. There are stories afloat showing that long ago he manifested a disposition to become an actor in some such great tragedy. A vast amount of testimony has been taken on the subject, showing that it was his intention to have committed the deed on the 4th of March, last but this is irrelevant to the question of immediate interest. On Friday last he dined at Welcker's restaurant, the most fashionable one in the city. After dinner he returned to the National Hotel. When he was leaving he was noticed by Mr Merritt, the clerk, to be unusually pale and nervous. He asked for a sheet of paper and an envelope, and commenced to write a letter at the public counter. Observing that a number of people were at the counter, he requested—to be allowed to write at the private desk which was acceded to.

While writing he inquired if it was 1864 or 1865, and was answered, "Don't you know the year you live in?" Upon finishing his letter he deposited it in the mail box and proceeded to his room. About seven o'clock he came down to the office, and, upon handing his key to Mr. Bunker, the clerk on duty, the latter remarked his unusual paleness and marble-like appearance, and asked if he was ill. He answered quickly, "No," and asked, "are you going to Ford's theatre to-night?" Mr. Bunker replied "No." He said, "You ought to go; there is to be some splendid acting there to-night." The next heard of Booth was a little after 7 o'clock, when he, in company with five others, entered the drinking saloon of George Harry, adjoining Ford's Theatre, and all of them drank together. The emphasis of their manner in taking the drink attracted attention. After drinking they formally shook hands with each other, bidding one another good bye. Upon leaving the bar-room two of the party rode off on horseback.—After the tragic occurrence at Ford's Theatre an officer commanding one of the fortifications east of the city was hurrying to his command, and was accompanied by an orderly. Between Lincoln Hospital and Camp Barry they came upon two men riding desperately. These two turned down a lane in which were four others, all mounted. The officer and his orderly gave chase, and were fired upon. The orderly was wounded, and the party pursued rode rapidly away and escaped with those who were evidently waiting for them.

These facts, in connection with others which for the present should not be published, lead to the belief that the horsemen who crossed the Anacostia river on that fatal night were accomplices and decoys, and that the real culprits are either concealed in the city or have taken a different direction.

Detectives are on the hunt. The most expert men in the profession, from New York and other cities are here for this purpose. Col. L. C Baker also arrived to-day, and is engaged in ferretting out the assassins. It is believed they will be caught within twenty-four hours.

VICE PRESIDENT JOHNSON TO HAVE BEEN ALSO ASSASSINATED.

It is very evident that the then Vice President Johnson was included in the murderous programme of Friday night. On Thursday a man of genteel appearance took a room at Kirkwood's Hotel, where Mr. Johnson boards. For reasons best known to the proprietor or the detective, the name registered has not been disclosed. During the following day he was particular in his inquiries about the room of Mr. Johnson, his whereabouts and habits. Since Friday night the strange lodger has not been seen, and on breaking open his room last night there were found concealed between the bed and mattress a bowie knife and navy revolver, and a bank book of J. Wilkes Booth, showing a balance of over four hundred dollars in bank. During the afternoon of Friday, Booth called at Kirkwood's and sent to Mr. Johnson a card as follows—

"Don't wish to disturb you. Are you at home?

J. WILKES BOOTH."

When the assassination of Mr. Lincoln occurred Senator Farwell, of Maine, was in the theatre, and hurried to Mr. Johnson's room and woke him up, to apprise him of the horrid tragedy. Upon entering the room he took the precaution to extinguish the light. It may be that this circumstance or perhaps the early retiring of Mr. Johnson, saved him from assassination.

Since his inauguration President Johnson is attended from and to his hotel by a mounted guard.

THE ASSASSINS.

Thirty thousand dollars reward is offered for the detection and conviction of the criminals. ten thousand by General Augur, and twenty thousand by the corporation of Washington. The most expert detectives in the country are engaged in the investigation, and no pains, labor, skill or expense will be spared in its prosecution.

THE CONDITION OF SECRETARY SEWARD AND HIS SON.

Washington, April 16—Midnight.

No material change has taken place in the condition of Secretary Seward or his son. The former was able to sit up for a short time this afternoon, and bids fair to recover speedily from his wounds.

The latter has not yet recovered his consciousness, but it is expected that he will do so in the course of a few hours. It depends on his condition when this recovery of consciousness takes place whether he will survive his injuries or not.

OFFICIAL ACCOUNT OF THE INAUGURATION OF ANDREW JOHNSON.

Washington, April 16, 1865.

Attorney General Speed yesterday morning waited upon Hon. Andrew Johnson, Vice President of the U States, and officially informed him of the sudden and unexpected decease of President Lincoln, and requested that an early hour might be appointed for the inauguration of his successor. The following is a copy of the communication referred to:—

Washington City, April 15, 1865.

Sir.—Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, was shot by an assassin last evening at Ford's theatre, in this city, and died at the hour of twenty-two minutes after seven o'clock. About the same at which the President was shot an assassin entered the sick chamber of the Hon. W. H. Seward, Secretary of State, and stabbed him in several places in the throat, neck and face, severely if not mortally wounding him. Other members of the Secretary's family were dangerously wounded by the assassin while making his escape. By the death of President Lincoln the office of President has devolved upon you. The emergency of the government demands that you should immediately qualify, according to the requirements of the constitution, and enter upon the duties of President of the United States. If you will please make known your pleasure, such arrangements as you deem proper will be made. Your obedient servants,

HUGH McCULLUCH;
Secretary of the Treasury.
EDWIN M STANTON,
Secretary of War.
GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.
WILLIAM DENNISON,
Postmaster General.
J. P. USHER,
Secretary of the Interior.
JAMES SPEED,
Attorney General.

To Andrew Johnson, Vice President of the United States.

Mr. Johnson requested that the ceremony take place at his rooms at the Kirkwood House, in this city, at ten o'clock in the morning.

Hon. Salmon P. Chase, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, was notified of the fact and requested to be in attendance to administer the oath of office.

At the above named hour, the following gentlemen assembled in the Vice President's room to participate in the ceremony;—Hon. Salmon P. Chase; Hon. Hugh McCulloch, Secretary of the Treasury; Mr. Attorney General Speed; F. H. Blair, Sr.; Hon. Montgomery Blair; Senators Foot, of Vermont; Yates, of Illinois; Ramsay, of Minnesota; Stewart, of Nevada; Hale, of New Hampshire, and General Farnsworth, of Illinois.

After the presentation of the above letter the Chief Justice administered the following oath to Mr. Johnson:—

I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the constitution of the United States.

THE PRESIDENT'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

After receiving the oath and being declared President of the United States, Mr. Johnson remarked:

Gentlemen, I must be permitted to say that I have been almost overwhelmed by the announcement of the sad event which has so recently occurred. I feel incompetent to perform duties so important and responsible as those which have been so unexpectedly thrown upon me. As to an indication of any policy which may be pursued by me in the administration of the government, I have to say that that must be left for development as the administration progresses. The message or declaration must be made by the acts as they transpire. The only assurance that I can now give of the future is reference to the past. The course which I have taken in the past in connection with this rebellion must be regarded as a guarantee of the future. My past public life, which has been long and laborious, has been founded as I in good conscience believe, upon a great principle of right, which lies at the basis of all things. The best energies of my life have been spent in endeavoring to establish and perpetuate the principles of free government; and I believe that the government in passing through its present perils will settle down upon principles consonant with popular rights more permanent and enduring than heretofore. I must be permitted to say, if I understand the feelings of my own heart, that I have long labored to ameliorate and elevate the condition of the great mass of the American people. Toil and an honest advocacy of the great principles of free government have been my lot. The duties have been mine—the consequences are God's, This has been the foundation of my political creed. I feel that in the end the government will triumph, and that these great principles will be permanently established. In conclusion, gentlemen, let me say that I want your encouragement and countenance. I shall ask and rely upon you and others in carrying the government through its present perils. I feel, in making this request, that it will be heartily responded to by you and all other patriots and lovers of the rights and interests of a free people.

At the conclusion of the above remarks the President received the kind wishes of the friends by whom he was surrounded.

A few minutes were devoted to congratulation. All were deeply impressed with the solemnity of the occasion, and the recent sad occurrence that caused the necessity for the speedy inauguration of the President was gravely discussed.

Mr. Johnson is in fine health, and has an earnest sense of the important trust that has been confided to him.

A special meeting of the Cabinet was held at the Treasury Department at ten o'clock this morning.

LAST MOMENTS OF THE PRESIDENT.

INTERESTING LETTER FROM MAUNSELL B. FIELD, ESQ.

On Friday evening, April 14, 1865, I was reading the evening paper in the reading-room of Willard's Hotel, at about 10½ o'clock, when I was startled by the report that an attempt had been made a few minutes before to assassinate the President at Ford's Theatre. At first I could scarcely credit it, but in a few minutes the statement was confirmed by a number of people who came in separately, all telling the same story. About fifteen minutes previously I had parted with Mr. Meller, of the Treasury Department, and he had retired to his room. Immediately on receiving this intelligence I notified him of it, and we together proceeded to the scene of the alleged assassination. We found not only considerable crowds on the streets leading to the theatre, but a very large one in front of the theatre, and of the house directly opposite, where the President had been carried after the attempt upon his life. With some difficulty I obtained ingress to the house. I was at once informed by Miss Harris, daughter of Senator Harris, that the President was dying, which statement was confirmed by three or four other persons whom I met in the hall; but I was desired not to communicate his condition to Mrs. Lincoln, who was in the front parlor; I went into this parlor, where I found Mrs. Lincoln, no other lady being present, except Miss Harris, as already mentioned. She at once recognized me, and begged me to run for Dr. Stone, or some other medical man. She was not weeping, but appeared hysterical, and exclaimed in rapid succession, over and over again: "Oh! why didn't he kill me? why didn't he kill me?" I was starting from the house to go for Dr Stone, when I met at the door, Major Eckert, of the War Department, who informed me that he was going directly to Stone's house, Stone having already been sent for, but not having yet arrived. I then determined to go for Dr. Hall, whose precise residence I did not know.

Upon inquiring of the crowd, I was told it was over Frank Taylor's bookstore, on the avenue. This proved to be a mistake, and I was compelled to return to his actual residence on the avenue, above Ninth street. I found the doctor at home and dressed, and he at once consented to accompany me. Arrived in the neighborhood of the house, I had great difficulty in passing the guard, and only succeeded at last in having the doctor introduced, admission being refused to myself. I returned to Willard's, it now being about two o'clock in the morning, and remained there until between three and four o'clock, when I again went to the house where the President was lying, in company with Mr. Andrews, late Surveyor of the port of New York. I ob-

(*Concluded on 2d Page.*)